

Filed

JAN 4 2024

**Missouri Ethics
Commission**

**BEFORE THE
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION**

MISSOURI ETHICS)	
COMMISSION,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 22-0065-I
)	
JESSICA PIPER,)	
Candidate,)	
)	
and)	
)	
PIPER FOR MISSOURI,)	
Candidate Committee,)	
)	
Respondents.)	

**JOINT FINDINGS OF FACT,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER**

The Missouri Ethics Commission ("MEC"), together with Jessica Piper and Piper for Missouri ("Respondents"), collectively the "parties" jointly stipulate and consent to action as set forth here (the "agreement").

Respondents acknowledge their right to have this agreement reviewed by counsel. Respondents further acknowledge they have received actual notice of the legal complaint filed by the MEC in this case, have reviewed the contents of the Complaint, and submit to the jurisdiction of the Missouri Ethics Commission.

Respondents further acknowledge they are aware of the various rights and privileges afforded by law, including but not limited to: the right to appear and be represented by counsel at a hearing before the MEC; the right to have all allegations against Respondents proven upon the record by competent and substantial evidence; the right to cross-examine any witnesses appearing at the hearing against Respondents; the right to present evidence on Respondents' behalf at the hearing; and the right to a decision upon the record of the hearing. Being aware of these rights, Respondents knowingly and voluntarily waive each one of these rights and freely enter into this agreement and agree to abide by its terms.

I.

The parties mutually agree and stipulate, subject to adoption by the Missouri Ethics Commission, the following shall constitute the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Jessica Piper was a candidate for Missouri State Representative in the November 8, 2022, election for House District 1.
2. Piper for Missouri was a candidate committee registered with the Missouri Ethics Commission on November 23, 2020.

3. Pursuant to § 105.961, the Commission's staff received a complaint against Respondents. Upon investigation of the allegations, a report was presented to the Commission.

4. The Commission determined there was reasonable grounds to believe violations of the Missouri Constitution and statutes occurred and authorized a hearing pursuant to § 105.961.3.

5. On October 13, 2021, Respondents accepted a \$30 contribution through the Act Blue donation platform from an individual purporting to be Allen Andrews ("the contribution"). The employer information was reported as "Missouri – politician."

6. The contribution was reported on Respondents' January 2022 Quarterly Report.

7. At the time, Allen Andrews was the incumbent State Representative for Missouri House District 1, and Respondent Jessica Piper was running in the November 8, 2022, general election to replace him.

8. Representative Andrews did not contribute the \$30 to Respondents.

9. At the time they accepted the contribution, Respondents knew Jessica Piper was running to replace Representative Andrews.

10. Additionally, the contribution was reported on Respondent's January 2022 Quarterly Report to be from an individual residing at 1 White

House Circle, Jefferson City, MO 65109, with the occupation of politician, employed by the State of Missouri.

11. A public records search of the address provided for the contributor reveals it to be fictitious, as the search showed no street address of 1 White House Circle exists in 65109 zip code.

12. A public records search for elected officials at the state level in Missouri with the name Allen Andrews revealed the only person with this name and office was Representative Andrews at the time of the contribution.

13. The donation through the Act Blue platform originated from an IP address registered in Massachusetts, which is assigned to an address and individual who shares no biographical information with that provided on the contribution reported to the Commission.

14. Commission staff contacted the individual suspected of making the contribution, and the contributor admitted to using the name Allen Andrews. The contributor's name was not Allen Andrews.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

15. The Missouri Constitution places clear limitations on the acceptance of contributions, stating:

No contribution shall be made or accepted, directly or indirectly, in a fictitious name, in the name of another person, or by or through another person in such a manner as to conceal the identity of the actual source of the contribution or the actual recipient. Any person who receives contributions for a committee

shall disclose to that committee's treasurer, deputy treasurer or candidate the recipient's own name and address and the name and address of the actual source of each contribution such person has received for that committee.

MO Const. Art. VIII, Sec. 23.3(7).

16. Missouri statutes mirror this Constitutional restriction in § 130.031.3, which states, in relevant part:

No contribution shall be made or accepted and no expenditure shall be made or incurred, directly or indirectly, in a fictitious name, in the name of another person, or by or through another person in such a manner as to conceal the identity of the actual source of the contribution or the actual recipient and purpose of the expenditure. Any person who receives contributions for a committee shall disclose to that committee's treasurer, deputy treasurer or candidate the recipient's own name and address and the name and address of the actual source of each contribution such person has received for that committee[.]

17. Where the accepted contribution was made in a manner to conceal the actual identity of the contributor, there is probable cause to believe the above conduct violates both MO Const. Art. VIII, Sec. 23.3(7) and § 130.031.3, giving this Commission power to act, as permitted under § 105.961.

II.

Based on the foregoing, the parties mutually agree and stipulate, subject to adoption by the Missouri Ethics Commission, the following shall constitute the Order issued by the Missouri Ethics Commission in this matter:

1. Respondents shall comply with all relevant sections of the Missouri Constitution and Chapter 130.

2. Respondents are assessed a fee in the amount of \$1,000, pursuant to Section 105.961.4(6), due by check or money order and payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission within sixty (60) days of the issuance of this Order;
3. If Respondents pay \$500 of the assessed fee within forty-five (45) days of the issuance of this Order, the remainder of the fee will be stayed for a period of two years. If Respondents do not commit any further violations of the Missouri Constitution or Chapter 130 during the two-year period, the remainder of the fee shall be dissolved. If there is probable cause to believe Respondents committed any further violations of the campaign finance laws under the Missouri Constitution or Chapter 130 within the two-year period, the remainder of the fee shall be due immediately upon such a finding.
4. Respondents shall escheat the \$30 contribution at issue here to the Missouri State Treasurer, payable to the State of Missouri, due by check or money order within sixty (60) days of the issuance of this order. The payment shall be sent to the Missouri Ethics Commission, independent of the fine imposed here, to be processed and forwarded to the Missouri State Treasurer.
5. Respondents shall be jointly and severally liable for all fees imposed under this Order.

III.

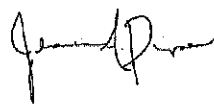
1. The parties understand the Missouri Ethics Commission will maintain this agreement as an open record of the Commission.
2. This agreement does not bind the Missouri Ethics Commission or restrict the remedies available concerning any violations not expressly detailed here, including any future violations.
3. Each party agrees to pay all their own fees and expenses incurred as a result of this case, its litigation, and/or its disposition.

4. Respondents, together with their heirs, assigns, agents, representatives and attorneys, do hereby waive, release, acquit and forever discharge the Missouri Ethics Commission, the Commission's respective members, employees, agents and attorneys including former members, employees, agents and attorneys, of, or from any liability, claim, actions, causes of action, fees, costs, expenses and compensation, including, but not limited to, any claim for attorney's fees and expenses, whether or not now known or contemplated, including, but not limited to, any claims pursuant to Section 536.087, RSMo, as amended, or any claim arising under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, which now or in the future may be based upon, arise out of, or relate to any of the matters raised in this case or its litigation or from the negotiation or execution of this Joint Stipulation. The parties acknowledge that this paragraph is severable from the remaining portions of this agreement in that it survives in perpetuity even in the event that any court or administrative tribunal deems this agreement or any portion thereof void or unenforceable.


5. This agreement shall become effective immediately upon (1) the signature of all parties; (2) adoption of the Joint Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law by the Missouri Ethics Commission; and (3) issuance of a Final Order by the Commission, without any further action of the parties.

SO AGREED:

RESPONDENTS

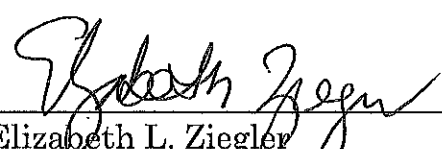


12/22/2023
Date
Jessica Piper
Piper for Missouri

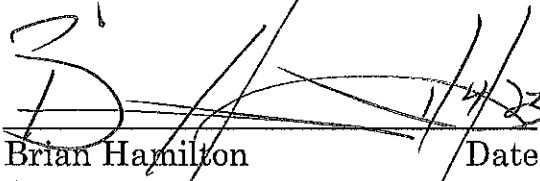


12/22/2023
Date
Elad Gross
Attorney for Respondents

MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION



1/4/23
Date
Elizabeth L. Ziegler
Executive Director



1/4/23
Date
Brian Hamilton
Attorney for Petitioner

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PIPER FOR MISSOURI,)	
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Respondents.)	
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CONSENT ORDER

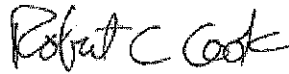
The Missouri Ethics Commission finds probable cause to believe Respondents violated the MO Const. Art. VIII, Sec. 23.3(7) and § 130.031.3, RSMo, and pursuant to § 105.961.4 RSMo, hereby **ORDERS**:

1. Respondents shall comply with all relevant sections of the Missouri Constitution and Chapter 130.
2. Respondents are assessed a fee in the amount of \$1,000, pursuant to Section 105.961.4(6), due by check or money order and payable to the Missouri Ethics Commission within sixty (60) days of the issuance of this Order.
3. If Respondents pay \$500 of the assessed fee within forty-five (45) days of the issuance of this Order, the remainder of the fee will be stayed for a period of two years. If Respondents do not commit any further violations of the Missouri Constitution or Chapter 130, the remainder

of the fee shall be dissolved. If there is probable cause to believe Respondents committed any further violations of the campaign finance laws under the Missouri Constitution or Chapter 130 within the two-year period, the remainder of the fee shall be due immediately upon such a finding.

4. Respondents shall escheat the \$30 contribution at issue to the Missouri State Treasurer, payable to the State of Missouri, due by check or money order within sixty (60) days of the issuance of this order. The payment shall be sent to the Missouri Ethics Commission, independent of the fine imposed here, to be processed and forwarded to the Missouri State Treasurer.
5. Respondents shall be jointly and severally liable for all fees imposed under this Order.

SO ORDERED this 4th day of January, 2024



Robert Cook, Chair
Missouri Ethics Commission